



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

Maree Todd MSP
Minister for Childcare and Early Years
Scottish Government

T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Direct Tel: 0131 348 5222
Fax: 0131 348 5600

MinisterCEY@gov.scot

es.committee@parliament.scot

5 April 2018

Dear Maree,

Thank you for giving evidence to the Education and Skills Committee on 21 March 2018.

I am writing to you to follow-up on a number of issues raised during the meeting that the Committee has agreed to seek further clarification on.

Questions from Members

The Committee seeks further clarification on the following issues that were raised by Members in relation to the Scottish Government's commitment to expanding funded early learning and childcare places to 1,140 hours by 2020–

- The total number of staff currently in place in the early years and childcare sector to deliver the Scottish Government's policy.
- The baseline number of staff that were in place at the point at which the Scottish Government identified that 12,000 more were required to deliver its proposed entitlement increase.
- A breakdown of the Scottish Government's indicative allocation of capital funding totalling £400 million, including how much of this figure relates to the purchase of land, rather than construction costs?
- An update in due course on the funding package that is agreed between the Scottish Government and COSLA for the delivery of the expansion of funded early learning and childcare entitlement.

Questions from the public

As you will be aware, the Committee invited questions and submissions from members of the public relating to your portfolio as part of our commitment to public engagement. We received nine written submissions and a question on Twitter, as outlined below–

Funded childcare/early years

- NDNA- National Day Care Association
- COSLA
- Fair Funding for our Kids
- Scottish Childminding Association
- Early Years Scotland
- Save the Children

Care experienced people

- Who Cares? Scotland
- Children 1st
- Barnardo's Scotland

Includem via Twitter–

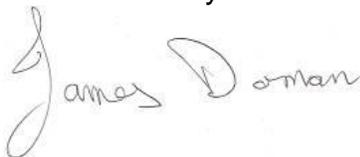
Given 25% of looked after children live at home with their parents, what more could the Scottish Government do to support children looked after at home and their families who consistently have the poorest outcomes? Clearly being on a compulsory supervision order isn't in itself an intervention, but for too many children looked after at home that's all they get. How can we make sure they get all the support they need and that the focus of improving the care system is on this group as well as those in placements away from home?

The submissions can be accessed in the meeting papers [here](#). A number of the written submissions set out specific questions and the Committee would be grateful for answers to these questions. The Committee also seeks your response to the question from Includem above. We intend to share your response with the organisations that provided the questions.

The Official Report of the meeting has been published and can be found on the Parliament's website [here](#) for your reference.

The Committee would be grateful to receive your response to this letter by **Friday, 6 May 2018**.

Yours sincerely



**JAMES DORNAN MSP
CONVENER**